GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

1913-14
(Education)

File No. 109-13

Serial Nos. 1-4

Papers Filed.

Month April 1914

SUBJECT

Attendance in the lubile classes of the State aided institutions may be made optional

PREVIOUS REFERENCES	LATER REFERENCES
Edn 340 1913	Edn 475—13(2)

Ebrahimanpur
21 5 14

p20

GRS 11] 1913 14

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

(G&R)

NOTES

File No 109-13

FILE HEADING

Concession clause for aided Schools in the State

From Mr. M Annaya Rao, Retd Asst Comr.

No Letter Dated 18/8/13 Received 20/8/13

Diary No 220	Enclos	Spare Copies	Serial No 1

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER

Requests under the circumstances that attendances in the Girls classes of the State aided institutions may be made optional.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

P

Sent with G&R file 341 of 1910 Re the previous papers on the subject and also Report papers No 89 of 1912-13 in which a Reply was given to Mr. Annaya Rao to the effect that Govt were not prepared to interfere in the matter

PR

2 Secretary

30/8/13

22/8/13

NOTES—First Sheet

GPB—∞ 000—15 6 12

G(V)R. S 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat

File No 109 of 1913

Serial No

3 The question has been fully considered on a former occasion & the conclusion then reached appears to be still quite valid.

(Sd) Dewan) CSB 9/9/13

4 There is some room for complaint but it is unlikely that the Missionaries will tamely submit to this I think that this ascertain confidentially may be asked to say what the Miss Bodies concerned think on the matter But the Govt need not commit itself to either side at present. H 10/9/13

5213 12 9 13

5 The matter may be further expanded into as suggested by the 1st Commissioner

6 2/12/13 AO Please put up the letter to D/S

3/12/13

7 Secretary 24/12/13 (11)

3/12/13

9 Issue CSB 6/12/13

NOTE—Contn sheet

G I R—85 000—1 6 13

4516 3

(R S 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat | Edn File No 109 of 191 3-14

Serial No

2 Do to the DG of Edn 6168 & 15:12:13.

Forwards Serial 1 and requests him to ascertain confidentially the views of the Mission authorities as to whether they would agree to make attendance at the bible classes optional

3 From the Dept of Edn
D.O. No 648 & 29/1/14

Submits copies of letters on the subject from the Reverend D A Rees and the Rev E Price ~~to him~~ from which it will be seen that they are not agreeable to make Bible lessons optional and adds that it is undesirable to call upon them to ~~make~~ many change their course as the Mission Schools have been in existence for a long time and are doing useful work but that it should be made incumbent on the Mission authorities that no boy should be expelled for absence from Bible lessons

10 Submd
Hon
2/2
2/2/14
DE
(7)

4 See 2 & 3 SDA 6/2

Sub to 1st meeting/Council

CSS
2/2/14
JE

NOTE—Contn sheet

GPB—6 000—1 6 —

General and Revenue Secretariat

File No 104 of 1913-14

Serial No

13 In Mr Sherman Ram's letter, he says it is undesirable to call upon Mission authorities to change their course But he adds that it should be made incumbent on them that no boy should be expelled for absence from the Bible classes I am inclined to think that these two things are not quite consistent with each other If a boy persists notwithstanding warning and minor punishments in absenting from a particular lesson, what can the head of the school do but expel him? I am afraid that the only course will be either to insist on liberty or to allow the Missionaries to enforce attendance unconditionally

14 Please send this again unofficially to the D.C.

14/2/14

NOTE—Contn sheet

PB—10 000— 1 1

(G I S 12]

4316 5

General and Revenue Secretariat | G.R. File No 109 of 1913-14

Serial No

No 201738—14/2/14

15 Forwarded unofficially to the Inspector General of Education for favour of further remarks

B O
Secretary to Govt
for Secy to Govt
Edn Dept

13-2-14

No 46 & 19 2 14

16 I am not in favour of discussing this question any further. The Director authorities say that no boy is expelled for absence only from Bible lessons. We may leave it to the aggrieved party to prefer an appeal, & inspite of this assurance, the Director authorities are forced to appeal. At a time when we have to work steadily and enlist all forces on our side, I can only state that it is inexpedient for Govt to do anything that may have the effect of ~~to be used~~ hostile to us, (creating the impression)

Ramachandra Rao
19 Feb 1914

17 Submitted.
Hon Bank
24
20/2/14 — 18 (1st member)

Sd
21/2

NOTE—Contn sheet

CPB—60 000—7 11 13

General and Revenue Secretariat | Edn File No 109 of 1913-14

Serial No

19 I am not in favour of Coercing the Missionary authorities either

20 Some sort of reply may be sent to the Petr

21 Show the file afterwards to the Dewan

9/3/14

22 Please put up a reply to Mr Annaswami Nat Govt are not prepared to interfere in the matter submit to Dewan

CSB
10/3/14

Rd 12/3

23 Draft Submd

13 3 14

24 (CS CSB)

16/3

Dewan

8339
18 3 '14

CSB
17/3/14

Draft approved by Dewan
28 3 14

Issue
CSB
30/3/14

NOTE—Contn sheet

GPB—60 000—7 11 13

7

G I S 1?]

General and Revenue Secretariat — Edn File No 109 of 1913-14

Serial No	
4	Note by Annaji Rao, 10/4/9 & 9 4 14 Informs that the Govt are not disposed to interfere in the matter

NOTE—Contn sheet

GPB—60 000—7 11 13

D 1220 | Edn 109-13 Serial 1

B

To

The Secretary to the Govt of Mysore
General & Revenue Depart
Bangalore D

Sir, I beg permission through you to bring the following subject to the notice of the Dewan Sahib, and I request you will kindly place the paper before him for orders -

I brought some time ago to the notice of the Government the typical case of my grandson, a minor who was asked to leave a state-aided mission school by the principal, because he asked for an exemption from attending Bible class in the school - Nothing is done till now

{Vide my letters dated 11th and 23rd Septr 1912 and your reply thereto [D 12 Edn 109-13]}

This subject which affects the religious feelings of the Hindus is being agitated year after year in the Dassara representative assembly and nothing seems to have come out of it till now, to redress the grievances of the parents & guardians of the minors -

It is a well known fact that no Hindu parent sends his boy to a school & learn scriptures taught by missionaries

2

It is therefore humbly requested that something may be done now that the state-aided mission schools may not interfere with the hereditary religious faith of the minors attending such schools. If they cannot provide separate religious teaching let them not compel minors to learn scriptures, under pain of expulsion from the school, in justice to the liberal grants they receive from Govt.

My excuse in bringing this subject again to the notice of our present Enlightened Dewan sahib is the public nature & importance of the subject matter amongst the Hindu population of this Hindu Raj. I beg to remain Sir,

Your most obedt servant
M Annaji Rao

Bangalore -
18th August 1913

Edn 77-13

3

G R S 26] 10/12

File No 109-13

Serial No 2

Diary No of letter replied to 1220

For one

No 6168 Edn 109-13

9/15 12 13

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

the 191

To

Mr. Rev. Mr. Shama Rao,-

Date of issue 15 12 13

Signed by Mr. C.S. Balakrishnaiyer

for the Director

Returned

I am desired to forward herewith a Representation from Mr. Annaji Rao, Retd Asstt Commr, Regarding the attendance of Hindu Boys in the bible Classes of aided Mission Schools in the State and to Request you to ascertain Confidentially ~~what~~ the views of the Mission authorities on the Subject Viz whether they could agree

over

SUBJECT

to make attendance at the
Intele classes optional.

Yours truly

C&B
6/12/13

5/12/13 Secy to Govt, Edn Deptt

Edn
211
4/12/13

List of enclosures

Copied by

Examined by

5

Office of the Inspector General of

D O No 648 Education in Mysore

Bangalore 29th January 1914

My dear Mr Balasundaram Iyer

With reference to your D O No 6168/Edn 109-13-2 d 15th December 1913 forwarding a representation from Mr Annaji Rao retired Assistant Commissioner regarding attendance of Hindu boys in the Bible Classes of aided Mission Schools I sent herewith copies of letters dated the 2nd and 16th inst from Messrs Rice and Rees of the London and the Wesleyan Missions respectively furnishing their opinion in the matter. From a perusal of their letters it will be seen that they are not agreeable to make Bible lessons optional As these schools have been in existence for many years and have been

doing

doing useful work, I think that it is inadvisible now to call upon them to change their course If any parent objects to Bible being taught to his son, he is at liberty to send him to a Government School It should, however, be made incumbent on the Mission Agencies that no boy should be expelled for absence from Bible lessons

The enclosure is herewith returned.

Yours sincerely

C. Shankara Rao

K/
C.

Letter dated 16th January 1913 from the Rev Mr D A Rees General Supcrintendent Wesleyan Mission Bangalore to the Inspector General of Education in Mysore

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Your D O 567-8 of the 17th December 1913

It is admitted that the greatest defect in the present syst of Government Education both in British India and Native States the absence of moral and religious teaching

The Government of India in its order 301 C D dated 21st February 1913 on the educational policy of the Government of India writes as follows -

> "The Government of India while bound to maintain a positio of complete neutrality in matters of religion observe tha the most thoughtful minds in India lament the tendency of existing systems of education to develop the intellectual at the expense of the moral and religious faculties"

I presume these words would apply with equal force to the education given by the Mysore State though Government is not pre vented through the necessity of maintaining religious neutrality from giving to Hindu pupils both moral and religious instruction throughout Mysore The Government of India awaits the issue of a book by the Government of Bombay "Containing moral illustratic which will be placed in the hands of teachers in order to assist them in imparting moral instruction"

In all Christian aided schools moral and religious teaching has from the outset been an integral part of the curriculum and could not consent to any proposal to omit it In the face of t crying need for such teaching at the present time which has been admitted by the Imperial Government I question whether any India Government would risk its reputation for consistency by seeking diminish the little teaching of the kind that is being given F the inculcation of high morality we know of no text book equal

7

the Bible

You ask if we would consent to make our teaching optional presume your question relates only to the religious teaching I cannot for a moment suppose that any one would suggest making the teaching of morality optional Our position is this we cannot separate morality from religion We are among those referred to by the Government of India in the following words - "Doubts were also expressed as to the efficacy of direct moral instruction when divorced from religious sanctions"

Your letter implies that there is a demand for the separation of moral from religious teaching During my long residence in Mysore I have never known but one case where a father requested that his son should be excused from classes where morality and religion were taught The reply given was that there was a Government School at hand to which he could send his boys if he so desired I am confident that there is no demand from the parents of the children who attend Mission Schools that their children should not attend these classes As to children having been threatened with expulsion if they did not attend Bible classes I most emphatically state that I have never heard of such a case

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(Copy)

Yes Ramarao
Inspector General

Letter dated 2nd January 1914 from the Rev E P Rice London Missionary Society Bangalore to the Inspector General of Education in Mysore

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I have to acknowledge receipt of your confidential D O 567-8 of December 17th, asking my views as to whether the Mission would agree to make attendance optional at Bible classes in schools receiving State aid

1 First I must express surprise at the occasion mentioned for this enquiry During my Missionary career of 40 years I have never once heard of expulsion or threatened expulsion from a Mission School on account of non-attendance at Bible lessons As I am in a favourable position for hearing of facts of that nature I am led to suggest that the Government will do well closely to scrutinise the sources of this information So far as my experience goes absence from the Bible lesson is dealt with solely as a matter of general school discipline in precisely the same way as absence from other lessons which pupils sometimes attempt to shirk (e g Vernacular classes in English Schools)

2 A few years ago the Education Commission of the Government of India dealt carefully with this subject and if I recollect rightly, their conclusion was that a Conscience Clause would be reasonable in the case of aided schools in a town where there was no Government or Municipal School but that where a non-religious school existed in the neighbourhood it ought not to be asked for I am fully in accord with that position and I think the Missionary Societies would see the reasonableness of it especially in the even of Education being compulsory

3 As to having a Conscience Clause in other cases also I should personally be quite indifferent to it <u>provided that the individual conscience were really free</u> But such a state of things does not exist in India and is not likely to exist for some generations

9

generations Neither pupils nor parents would be allowed to act on their own initiative but would be compelled to follow the direction given by caste and Ecclesiastical authorities moved by agitators Even in England where there is so much individual freedom the help of a conscience clause is rarely invoked by parents except where they are egged on and coerced by ecclesiastics and members of the priestly class My experience is that people appreciate Bible teaching just in proportion as they understand what it is and that opposition to it is usually the result of ignorance or misrepresentation

4 Whatever might be my own attitude or that of individual Missionaries toward this subject I do not think the supporters of Missions in England and America would for a moment consent to accept State aid if that were conditional on optional attendance at the Bible classes They would rather forgo state aid and reduce the number of their schools Their position is that Religious Teaching is an essential part of a sound Education and must no more be omitted than Reading Writing or Arithmetic

5 I venture to add for your consideration one or two other points which deserve weighing The kind of legislation adumbrated in your letter seems to me undesirable both on purely Educational and also on administrative grounds Admirable as is the Educational system now prevalent in this State and in British India it is open to two criticisms which such legislation would give additional force to

6 One criticism is that Education is oversystematised and overcentralised The desire for uniformity has been carried to the extremest length that is healthy and the result is that there is little room left for originality or initiative in Educational theory on the part of teachers and managers There must be a wealth of Educational experience among teachers in the Mysore but little scope exists for its exercise and the State is proportionately impoverished Almost the only departure from the theory of Education followed in State Schools is that adopted in Mission Schools If this is vetoed and the Government resolve to subsidise only one

kind

kind of school viz that which is just like their own then the State will be still further impoverished Educationally

7 Another criticism brought against the Established system of Education is that it is arranged mainly for the convenience of the public administration and does little to encourage learning for its own sake There are few parents or pupils who are seeking the culture of the whole man apart from the emoluments of public life The reason why many shirk the Bible lesson is not that they are averse to that lesson itself but that it brings no marks in the Public Examinations If a knowledge of the Bible were demanded of all candidates for the public service pupils would crowd to the classes where it was taught Having to study a subject apart from its pecuniary value is a healthy discipline and schools which attempt this should not be discouraged

8 It is an accepted principle that no one knows properly the history or geography of his own country who does not know that of adjacent countries The same is true of Religion A correct understanding of the religious standpoint of those with whom we come into daily contact is of the highest service An Englishman residir in India and unacquainted with the ideals of Hinduism makes serious mistakes In like manner the Indian who is training for public life and who knows little or nothing of the Great Man from whose birth he dates his letters and documents and of whom the King Emperror and the dominant race in the land and the great peoples of Europe and America are followers is surely open to the charge of being inadequately educated To discourage instruction in any religion but one's own would be a step backward in the direction of medievalism

9 The Mysore State has already acquired an unfortunate notorit by placing those who adopt the Christian religion under disabilities long since with great benefit abolished throughout British India It can ill afford to go further in the same direction and it would be a poor return for the enlarged trust and responsibility entrusted to

11

it by the British Government

10 To those who have studied and compared the standards of conduct taught under different religions it will be matter of profound astonishment that in this 20th Century any enlightened State should refuse to aid solely those schools in which an integral part of the instruction given consisted of the life and ethics of Jesus Christ --considering that Jesus Christ is One of whom John Stuart Mill could say "It would be difficult to turn ethical teaching from the abstract to the concrete more simply than by saying - Try to live so that Jesus Christ may approve your conduct"

11 Defects in Christian teaching in schools we frankly acknowledge These are due chiefly to paucity of good teachers and of good text books These defects time will remedy If any particular Christian teacher misuses his position complaint should be made to the Manager of the school there is no call for legislation Any attempt to force another's conscience is itself a violation of the teaching of Jesus Christ and therefore cannot be maintained as an argument against Christian schools as a class That in any ordinary Mission School no one's conscience is forced is proved by the long history of such schools as the Wesleyan Mission High School and the London Mission High School in Bangalore Unfortunately even in high and generally well-informed quarters there is often considerable misunderstanding of the aims and methods of Christian Schools

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(Copy)

Inspector General

TNR

12

G R S 26]

File No 109-13
Serial No 4

Diary No of letter replied to 4316

No 10149
EGN 10913 — 9944

General and Revenue Secretariat
(EGN)
the 191

To The Amara Rao, Esq
Retd Asst Com

Date of issue 9-4-14

Signed by for S Rajagopalachari

Sir,

With refce to your letter of the 18th April 1913 requesting that attendance of students in the Bible classes of the State-aided institutions may be made optional I am directed to state that the Govt are not disposed to interfere in the matter ~~for the present~~

I have etc

28/3/14

for Secy to Govt

SUBJECT